



Announcement Alert Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011

The Embassy of the United States of America in Bangkok is pleased to invite former participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange, teaching or professional programs (State Alumni) to submit proposals for the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011. **DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2011**

This competition is designed to assist State Alumni to build on concepts and ideas explored during their exchange program by providing funding for special projects. In 2011, six proposals from Thailand, not exceeding US\$4,000 **each**, will be selected for funding.

Each project proposal must involve a team of at least **10 State Alumni**, all of whom must be registered with the State Alumni website (<https://alumni.state.gov>).

Alumni are encouraged to re-view successful alumni projects in the Alumni News section of the State Alumni website.

Proposals must include one or more of the following goals:

- To encourage fellow alumni to register with the State Alumni website at <https://alumni.state.gov>;
- To enable alumni to work collectively to share the benefits of the exchange experience with Thai audiences and to "give back" to their community;
- To foster alumni implementation and teaching of the concepts explored during the exchange programs;
- To provide training that will improve alumni implementation skills;

- To involve alumni in recruiting exchange participants, and/or promoting exchange programs, especially among non-traditional audiences.

Proposals that will be given priority include those that: i) enable alumni to work collectively; or ii) target non-traditional audiences; or iii) spread ideas and concepts explored by alumni during exchange experiences among non-alumni; or iv) build connections among alumni of a given program or across programs. The following is a list of sample project ideas:

- Focus groups of alumni on key issues;
- A public lecture series by alumni on local or global issues;
- Free consultancy services by alumni for NGOs and local government;
- Training workshops that teach topics such as leadership, teamwork building, young entrepreneurship, or American studies to youth;
- Community service projects, such as environmental cleanups, social marketing presentations on health issues, assistance for orphanages, activities that reach out to the disabled, etc.;

- Training programs for or by alumni, or run by alumni, for their colleagues and/or other alumni.

**** Project grantees must post project results/news on the State Alumni website (<https://alumni.state.gov/th>) at the end of the projects. ****

Funding cannot be used:

- To cover representational costs such as meals, drinks, gifts, etc.
- To fund alumni websites separate from <https://alumni.state.gov>.
- To support individual research projects of alumni.
- To pay salaries or administrative overhead.
- To pay for international travel outside of Thailand.

Six winning projects will be announced on the Thailand Community of the State Alumni website (<https://alumni.state.gov/th>) on August 2, 2011.

For further information on how to submit your proposal, please contact Khun Adisorn Laopiroon, Alumni Coordinator, at 02-205-4849 or email Adisorn@state.gov.



'State Alumni' are current and former participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange, teaching or professional programs.

Join alumni.state.gov to stay in touch with fellow alumni, and with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai, so that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.

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Alumni Bridge Gap of Understanding

BANGKOK, Thailand - On April 7, Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) Alumni coordinated and organized a half day 'Muslim Generation and Understanding' outreach activity at the An-nathotul Islamiya School in Nongchok District for more than 70 elementary and

secondary students. The main objective of the camp was to build a bridge of understanding and create relationships between the new generation of Muslims and Americans. To reach this goal, YES Alumni took several fun and informative activities, including the 'Who Am I' game, which showed pictures of famous Muslim Americans. Students had a chance to learn their inspiring stories from these Muslim American icons, including Muhammad Ali, a famous heavyweight champion, and Keith Ellison, the first Muslim representative in the U.S. Congress. Moreover, YES alumni helped students to write postcards expressing their concerns and providing encouraging words to



victims of the southern Thai floods who are still suffering from this disaster. The U.S. Embassy also provided publications and giveaways to the participants, such as EducationUSA notebooks, IRC notepads, and Muslim Life in America magazines.



Alums Add Value to Youth Camp



On April 12, a group of Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) Alumni also took part in this summer camp to assist and lend their expertise in a variety of activities. The alumni managed the 2-hour fun-filled session for the participants to play "Do You Know What This Means" Game, which allowed them to learn English language



BANGKOK, Thailand - From April 12-16, Mr. Chariyawat Chareonchang, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumnus, organized an Islamic Youth Camp for more than 120 elementary and secondary students at the Islamic Pattana Wittaya School. This summer camp is held annually to enhance knowledge of Islam for young students and to educate them how to be a good citizen in today's multicultural society.



vocabulary for daily life. Additionally, YES Alumni shared their "Life in the U.S." stories to build better understanding between the Thai Muslim community and Americans. The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok also provided copies of the "So Awesome Magazine" (SAM)-- U.S. Embassy Bangkok's bi-monthly, bilingual magazine for Thai youth; notebooks; and mini U.S. Department of State frisbees for all the participants.



YESTA: Thai New Alumni Group in Formation



BANGKOK, Thailand - An energetic group of Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) alumni got together on April 30 to officially establish the YES Thailand Alumni (YESTA) Club and discuss their annual project plan. The reunion started with the selection of the first-ever YESTA committee members, who were then assigned duties and responsibilities, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Fundraiser, etc. Then, the newly elected President of YESTA, Mr. Yutthakrit Chalermthai, took over as leader

and chaired the meeting to outline the Club's annual activities. The Club plans to visit schools, participate in blood donation drives, conduct outreach to minority communities, attend volunteer camps, participate in pre-departure orientation programs for incoming YES participants and post-orientation programs for returning alumni, update alumni database, and organize annual YES alumni reunions. The committee members plan to meet every month to track



Above: Mr. Yutthakrit Chalermthai shares his vision after being elected as the new President of YESTA



organizational progress and plan additional projects.



SUSI Participants Get Mentored From Their Upper-Classmen

BANGKOK, Thailand - On May 2, Ms. Rungtip Junlah, Mr. Aekarak Sethi and Mr. Tawin Kim, Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders



(SUSI) alumni, reunited to meet their fellow program grantees who will travel to the

U.S. soon. The alumni, all of whom attended this same program last year, shared what they learned from their trip to the U.S. with the new participants, including American culture, dos and don'ts, pre-departure preparation, and post-program assignments. The incoming participants will spend approximately one month in Hawaii, Denver and Washington D.C. attending environmental workshops, visiting NGOs, and taking part in various projects developed by the U.S. Department of State.

Fulbrighters Share How to Run a Successful Organization



Above: Ms. Pissmai Khanobdee, President of TFA, leads the presentation on alumni associations

BANGKOK, Thailand - On May 3, Ms. Pissmai Khanobdee, President of Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (TFA), joined two other TFA committee members (Ms. Sarawanee Jinayon and Mr. Chaiwat

Kaewphanngam) to give a presentation to fifteen embassy Alumni Coordinators from around the world on the topic “Creating and Sustaining Alumni Associations: The Thai Fulbright Alumni

Association (TFA)” at the Alumni Outreach Strategy Building Seminar. They outlined their organizational foundation and structure since it was just a loosely organized group in the mid 50s, until the first Fulbright Alumni Association Executive Board was officially established

to strengthen the alumni network in 1985. Each of them also stated how TFA facilitates social and academic activities among alumni, and how they have kept the relationship among members tight through the past decades. In addition, alumni showcased some of their recent community projects that have been beneficial to the country.



Alumni Give Words of Advice to Undergraduate Students



with a talk on the topic ‘Study Abroad Opportunity: How to Make the Most Out of It,’ in which he outlined the benefits of study overseas and what to do to prepare to

get into the top universities in the U.S. Mr. Payungsak, an English lecturer at Mahidol University, later gave another presentation on ‘Learning English in the Future World’. He provided some good insights on how and why English is im-

Mr. Tanva Samatiyadekul (left) and Mr. Payungsak Kaenchan (below) talk to the participants

portant for study and career advancement.

Each year, the GE Foundation (Thailand) provides scholarships to approximately thirty-five needy students with good academic backgrounds. The current grantees are in their 2nd-4th years of undergraduate studies from ten public universities in Thailand. Visit www.iithai.org for more information and other scholarship opportunities from the Institute for International Education.

BANGKOK, Thailand – On May 14, Fulbright Alumni Mr. Tanva Samatiyadekul and Mr. Payungsak Kaenchan gave two separate presentations to more than forty GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders Program recipients and alumni at their Annual Gathering Event at Centara Grand Hotel in Bangkok. Mr. Tanva, a business owner, started the first session





Alumni Foster Exchange of Ideas and Friendship

BANGKOK/SAMUT SAKORN, Thailand – To continue the Thailand State Alumni Community's efforts to seek partnerships with the private sector, a group of Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program alumni volunteered to work with the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Dragon Foundation on the "Global Citizen Programme 2011". From June 20-24 alumni mentored more than thirty university students from

Hong Kong who came to Thailand to learn about its social problems, including illegal immigration, crime, drugs, etc. During this week-long project, alumni shared their thoughts on various issues, drawing on their background and experience. At the same time, they also added additional perspectives to the discussion by offering ideas on how they perceived Americans



deal with the same problems in the U.S. In addition, alumni served as interpreters for the program participants during visits with NGOs and local residents.



State Alumni Meet U.S. Ambassador During Her First Southern Trip

Nakhon Si Thammarat, June 29, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney paid her first visit to the South of Thailand. Besides visiting local educational institutions, Ambassador Kenney also spared time from her busy schedule to meet U.S. government-sponsored exchange alumni, State Alumni, in the province. This event also marked the

first Nakhon Si Thammarat alumni reunion. More than 10 IVLP, Southeast Asia Youth Leadership, U.S. Embassy Scholarship, Global UGRAD, and YES alumni gathered at Chao Rua Restuar-



ant and spent lunch time getting to know the Ambassador and their fellow alumni. The alumni came from many educational institutes in the prov-

ince including Prateepsassana Islamic School, Rajabhat Nakhon Si Thammarat University, Valaya Alongkorn University, Thasalaprasitsuksa School, Benjamara-chootit School, and Walailuck University. At the end, Ambassador Kenney presented each guest with State Alumni pins and polo-shirts.

Global State Alumni Member of the Month



PROTAIS BUNINI GAHUNGU - APRIL 2011

Dr. Protais Bunini Gahungu was selected to participate in a Citizen Exchanges program on conflict resolution and NGO management in 1999 while he was serving as a church leader and Director of Action of Evangelical Churches for the Promotion of Health and Development.

“The program changed my life completely,” Dr. Gahungu said. “Before my participation in the program, I thought one needs big amounts of money to

carry out an initiative in the country. Soon after my experience in the United States, I changed my mind. I realized that great achievers start small and grow bigger progressively.” Since his exchange experience he has continued in his ecumenical role, but also started a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Misericorde in 2000 to support the Rwandan processes of unification and reconciliation.

[Read More](#)



SHAMSHAD HUSSAIN - MAY 2011



Shamshad Hussain from Pakistan is an effective leader in promoting volunteerism, education, and ecotourism. Hussain participated in the Community College Initiative Program (CCIP), studying at Daytona State College from 2008 to 2009. “It was an honor to represent Pakistan in the U.S. The ultimate impact was my broadening vision and firm mission to make a difference in my society.” Upon his return to Paki-

stan, he initiated numerous community service projects, was elected president of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network Gilgit-Baltistan Chapter, and took on the role of coordinator for the local English Access Microscholarship Program.

[Read More](#)



FATEN SALEH - JUNE 2011

Faten Saleh of France, an advocate for diversity and human rights, exemplifies how alumni can build on their exchange experience to make a positive impact in the world. As an alumna of both the Summer Institute for European Student Leaders and the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, Saleh has implemented a number of projects that challenge stereotypes, foster people-to-people connections, and strengthen the

alumni community. Upon returning from the Summer Institute program in 2006, Saleh successfully implemented several volunteer initiatives she had observed in the United States, such as an orientation weekend for first-year students and tutoring for foreign exchange students.

[Read More](#)





Meet the Alumni



SEAYLP 2011 Participants

Panya Phutthasupa Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) 2011



From April 6-30, 2011, a group of twenty-two high school students and four adult leaders from four South-east Asian countries—Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines—participated in the U.S. government-sponsored exchange program called Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program or SEAYLP. During the three-week program, participants had learned about cooperative leadership strategies, river ecology, and American culture. For me, it was not too long ago when we, along with the other participants of the SEAYLP and students from Sycamore High School went to the Afton Prairie Forest Preserve in DeKalb, Illinois. It was a prairie restoration project and we learned how to plant new trees. During this activity, we figured out that the values of patience, friendship, and flexibility are some of the

many assets of leadership essential in making a community an active and productive one. We were just like best pals, friends, or even FAMILY! I believed that every SEAYLP participants... are looking forward to have a reunion for SEAYLP. Lastly, I'd like to say, thank you! I miss you guys!

Nataporn Theppitak Global UGRAD 2008 Utica College, Utica, New York

It has been two years now since I came back from USA. Every moment of priceless experience from Global UGRAD is kept with me all the time.

I appreciate this wonderful opportunity that made me become who I am now, how I can look at this world differently with wide-opened eyes. The more I explored, the more I learned that there were so many things that I had never thought of and how fun life could be.



ANNOUNCEMENT ALERT Education USA Pre Departure USA 2011

*Everything you need to know
before going to study in the
U.S.*

- Rules & Regulations for Thai Students in the U.S.
- Preparation Before Departure
- Life of Thai Students

Date: July 23 and October 14, 2011

Time: 12:30 pm - 5 pm

Venue: Room 300
AUA Language Center
Rajdamri Road
(BTS Rajdamri Station)

Reserve your seats at:

**Counseling Unit
AUA Language Center
Tel. 0-2650-5040 ext. 4006
E-mail: counseling@auathailand.org**



eLibraryUSA: Explore the World

What is the eLibraryUSA?

A virtual library with 20 databases of authoritative and continually updated information available to you.

Interesting Databases:



Britannica for Kids: An online version of the classic reference work geared towards elementary and middle school students. Features include:

- Access to Compton's Encyclopedia and the Elementary Encyclopedia.
- Videos about such subjects as science, history and the arts.
- Country profiles aimed at younger readers.
- Additional reference resources, such as dictionaries, a world atlas, and guides for students to prepare papers and presentations.



GREENR (Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources) is a collection of resources about environmental issues. Features include:

- Topic guides providing extensive coverage of environmental and energy issues.
- Machine translation of articles into eight languages.
- ReadSpeaker, which provides an audio version of the articles.
- Social bookmarking, saved searches, and Google Maps-based research guide



You can explore all these databases free of charge at the IRC Bangkok or American Corners in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Pattani, and Yala. Printing document may be subjected to small charge. Contents in these databases may be copyrighted.


Product Highlight: SAM



Let's Recycle Our Trash!

The latest issue of the youth eZine "SAM" features how to recycle our trash. This issue is full of fun stories about the U.S., games and quizzes!

Check out the May 2011 SAM now!



**INFORMATION
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Mondays-Fridays: 7:00-16:00 hrs except
U.S. Embassy holidays



Embassy Insiders: Cultural and Educational Affairs

The Cultural and Educational Affairs Office (CAO) manages a broad range of programs to promote professional, academic, and cultural relations between the people of the United States and Thailand. Here are some of the programs that the CAO encourages the sharing of ideas between people of the two countries.

U.S. Speaker Programs bring American experts on a diverse range of issues to speak to and exchange views with Thai audiences, including government officials, students, and the media.

Digital Video Conferences allow political and community leaders, academics, professionals, and students in the United States and Thailand to meet and discuss topics of interest via video.

The International Visitor Leadership Program sends current and potential Thai leaders to the United States to engage in a short but intensive round of professional meetings and consultations with their American counterparts.

Academic Exchange Programs for Thai and U.S. scholars, specialists, teachers, and

students include the Fulbright, Humphrey, and Global Undergraduate programs. Supported by CAO, the Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (TUSEF) administers most exchange programs.

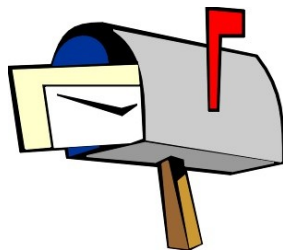
Student Advising: CAO works closely with educational institutions from the secondary to professional levels to inform Thai students about educational opportunities in the United States.

American Arts are showcased for Thai audiences in a variety of forms, ranging from visual art exhibitions to concerts and workshops of jazz, bluegrass, hip-hop and contemporary dance.

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation gives grants to projects that help Thailand preserve its cultural heritage.

The Democracy Commission Small Grants Program awards small grants to local NGOs for specific projects that support the development of democratic institutions and civil society in Thailand.

For more information, please contact the CAO at BangkokPD@state.gov or visit <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/education/cultural-programs.html>.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

For State Alumni who have new contact information, please fill out details on the following link.

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni_signup.html

Other options to communicate with us:

Phone: 02-205-4849

Mobile: 081-813-0704

Fax: 02-650-8921

E-mail: Adisorn@state.gov

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni.html>



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